

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, on Wednesday, 21 November 2012 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. S. Dickinson,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. J. Jermain, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker,
Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public
District Councillor Mr. M. Butler
Mr. C. Hennis (Play Place)
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: None

1. MINUTES

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2012, Ref KPC/11/12, previously circulated, subject to the following amendments:-

Page 1, Item 2(b), 4th line – "bi-annual" should be "biennial"

Page 2, Item 2(c), 22nd line – remove "bridge"

Page 2, Item 3, 3rd line – replace "has" with "had"

Page 3, Item 2(e), 2nd paragraph, 3rd line – "House" should be "Pavilion"

CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Speeding along Childsbridge Lane (Minute 2(c) KPC/11/12)

Councillors noted a written report produced by the Clerk containing the following information:-

- Details of a campaign to reduce the current speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph and to create a priority to oncoming traffic at the bridge over the Railway at Childsbridge Lane, Seal, with barriers protecting a pedestrian walkway on the southbound side of the road to make the crossing safe for non-vehicular road users.
- Notes of a meeting the Clerk had with a Kent County Council Highways and Transportation Traffic Engineer and the Clerk from Seal Parish Council regarding the above proposals.
- Information about the Community Speed Watch Scheme and Sevenoaks District Council's Community Safety Unit's involvement with the Scheme in terms of providing equipment and training for volunteers.

A copy of an email from a resident who is taking part in a Speed Watch Scheme in Seal Parish was tabled at the meeting. The Parish Council was asked to consider supporting a Speed Watch Scheme in Kemsing.

Mr. Buttifant reminded Councillors that the Parish Council's previous attempts to set up Speed Watch Schemes in Kemsing had been unsuccessful as there was a lack of public interest to volunteer.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:-

"That the Parish Council has duly noted the suggestion of a Speed Watch Scheme in Kemsing. The matter will be monitored and reconsidered at a later date."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 3 against

The Parish Council AGREED to consult with Seal Parish Council on its view of the effectiveness of their Speed Watch Scheme. The results will be considered at a future Parish Council meeting.

8.15 p.m. Mrs. Cole proposed that Item 5(a) be brought forward. This was AGREED.

5(a) Play Place

Mr. Hennis gave a brief summary of the youth club's activities over the past year, including their attempts to secure further funding for the provision of the youth club. The Club continues to deliver the service to around 15 young people per session. Some of the activities include nail art, film night, pool competition, craft and games evenings and sports activities in the summer. In terms of funding, an application has been made to Sevenoaks District Council's Community Grant Scheme to deliver a 12 week targeted project at 5 delivery sites, which includes Kemsing. Various other funding issues were briefly outlined. Mr. Eaton advised that the Parish Council had not made a financial contribution to Play Place for the current financial year, although there was a provision in the budget for a donation.

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £1,750 and another £1,750 in March 2013 to Play Place."

Dr. Walker proposed the following amendment, seconded by Mr. Bennett:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £2,400 to Play Place and that a further donation be considered at the Parish Council meeting in March 2013."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Hennis thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

(b) Village car park – Community Right to Bid (Minute 4 (d) KPC/11/12)

Sevenoaks District Council confirmed receipt of the Parish Council's enquiry. Arrangements for managing the Community Right to Bid applications are being finalised and the Parish Council will be provided with the formal application form in due course.

(c) Library Services (Minute 4(d) KPC/11/12)

Councillors noted a written report of a meeting held on 14 November, attended by Mrs. Cole, the Clerk, representatives from KCC Libraries and Archives, Womens' Institute, Kemsing Heritage Centre, Open Door and Kemsing Primary School. Existing library services will change following a significant reduction in KCC's funding for the 99 libraries in the County. (£1 million has to be saved throughout the County over the 2014-2016 financial periods.) KCC has made it clear that they are keen to retain services for the local communities and to meet local needs. They are not looking to close libraries, but it is essential that the community find efficient ways to run the local library services.

To this end, KCC is engaging in conversations with local communities to find out any ideas that residents may have to enhance the future of the library services. Various suggestions were made at the meeting such as:

- Opening hours at Kemsing Library should be more consistent to increase usage.
- Building should be insulated better, i.e. double glazed windows installed to improve energy efficiency.
- Possibility of making the building available for the provision of a "before school Breakfast Club" to provide Childcare for Primary School children - renting the space out plus sharing running costs.

It was also confirmed that the current location is perfect for Kemsing.

It was also suggested that information be distributed to the various organisations and canvas ideas from residents to be aired at a public meeting to be arranged in February 2013.

(d) Bus shelter at Greenlands Road (Minute 4(e) KPC/11/12)

Mr. Croughton reported that the shelter, although structurally sound, does need repairs to the woodwork and painting. The Clerk reported that two companies have been approached to obtain quotes for the repair work, but unfortunately the quotes are still awaited.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“That the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to accept a quote, subject to it being £400 or less, for the necessary repair work to be carried out, to be paid from the Parish Council’s General Contingency Budget.”

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Car park at Doctor’s Surgery, Kemsing (Minute 6 (KPC/11/12)

The Offord Surgery kindly agreed to make available the Kemsing surgery car park for the Oaks Christmas Dinner at Kemsing Primary School. The Parish Council was very grateful for this gesture.

8.45 p.m. The meeting was adjourned to allow for public participation.

3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

A resident who had noticed an increase in the number of crimes in Kemsing, asked the Parish Council to consider inviting a Senior Police Officer to a Parish Council meeting, and not just to the Annual Parish Meeting, to advise what actions they are taking to reduce the crime in Kemsing. A number of crimes are not reported and residents should be urged to report any crime to the Police. Mrs. Cole suggested that The Well magazine should advise residents to do so.

Mrs. Cole said that the Parish Council was very pleased that Police Community Support Officer S. Harwood has returned to Kemsing. PCSO Harwood is in regular contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk.

District Councillor Mr. M. Butler was pleased to announce that the Kemsing Boxing Club had received a grant of £3,000 from the Sevenoaks Community Fund and the Noah’s Ark Residents’ Association received a £150 grant towards their Christmas lights.

Mr. Butler was thanked for his report and he left the meeting at 8.50 p.m. when the meeting was reconvened.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 October 2012, Ref No. P/16/2012, previously circulated.”

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 12 November 2012, Ref. No. P/17/2012, previously circulated.”

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Finance Committee

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

*“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24 October 2012, Ref. No F/126/12, previously circulated, subject to the following amendment:-
Item 6 – ‘replacement’ should be ‘replaced’.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2012, Ref. No RG/07/2012, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

(e) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Buttifant had noticed an increase in litter in recent months, in areas not included in the Village Tidiness Officers' routes and Mr. Buttifant suggested that the Parish Council considers extending the current routes to cover a bigger area of the village, with the aim that all areas will receive a litter pick, at least once a month. The additional work to be reflected in the salaries.

Mr. Buttifant proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Clerk discusses the suggestion with the Village Tidiness Officers to obtain their views."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Croughton reported that the wooden directional sign at the junction with The Landway and Pilgrims Way is leaning in the hedge adjacent to Pilgrims Way. The post has decayed and should be replaced. The Clerk confirmed that this issue was being dealt with by KCC Highways.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Play Place

See earlier item.

(b) Kemsing Open Door

Mr. Croughton declared having a personal interest as his spouse is the Treasurer of the Kemsing Open Door Committee.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £200 towards the Kemsing Open Door for the financial year 2012/13."

CARRIED 11 in favour, 1 abstention (Mr. Croughton)

(c) Kemsing Over 60's Club

Mr. Bennett proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £200 towards the Kemsing Over 60's Club for the 2012/13 financial year."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Victim Support

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Jermain seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £100 towards Victim Support."

5 in favour, 5 against, 2 abstentions

There being an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised the Chairman's right to a casting vote, and voted against the proposal.

The proposal FELL

6. **COUNCILLORS' DECLARABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members noted that Councillors' general dispensation permitting any Councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to the setting of the Council's precept had been repealed by the Localism Act 2011. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is currently seeking Government advice to avoid the need for dispensations, but until this has been confirmed, Councillors taking part in setting their Council's precept will be subject to asking for dispensation.

It is hoped that a definitive answer will be forthcoming from the NALC and the Government in time for the January Parish Council meeting when the Budget and Precept will be set. Meanwhile the Clerk will prepare a formal letter for each Councillor to sign, asking permission for dispensation, should it be necessary at the January Parish Council meeting.

7. CONSULTATION – IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

The Council noted the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on making regulations to require local authorities to publish data falling within a certain description of information specified in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes no comment to this consultation."

CARRIED unanimously

8. CONSULTATION – MAKING IT EASIER TO SET UP NEW TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Members noted the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on a range of proposed options to address the process in which Parish and Town Councils are being set up.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council does not comment on the consultation."

CARRIED unanimously

9. CONSULTATION – EXAMINING THE SPEED LIMIT FOR HGV'S OVER 7.5 TONNES ON SINGLE CARRIAGE WAY ROADS

The Department for Transport is considering whether the speed limit for HGV's over 7.5 tonnes are set at the right level, as it is thought that raising the speed limit for HGV's on single carriageways could make journeys faster with a result of lower costs to the logistics sector and improving economic growth and reducing frustration for the many drivers who take risks on busy roads when finding themselves stuck behind slower-moving lorries.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council does not comment on the consultation."

CARRIED unanimously

10. CHALARA DIEBACK OF ASH IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Forestry Commission issued guidance and raising awareness of the new threat which has caused a widespread death in ash trees across continental Europe. Any suspicious symptoms should be reported to the Forestry Commission.

11. KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES – TOWARDS 2020 UPDATE

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority published their draft plans for the future, including how they will respond to emergency incidents, train staff and protect the environment, in a document called 'Towards 2020 Update'.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council makes no comment on the consultation paper."

CARRIED unanimously

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 153 to 183) and notes the receipt list (Vouchers 19 to 21)."

CARRIED unanimously

13. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following information was noted:

- (a) Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Kent Downs Orchid newsletter
- (b) Clerks & Councils Direct – November issue
- (c) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice magazine
- (d) Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk magazine – November 2012
- (e) Former Wheatsheaf Public House - During the demolition of the old pub Wealden Homes found a keystone from the front of the pub and offered it to the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association.
- (f) Royal British Legion (Kemsing Branch) – Thank you letter for the Parish Council's donation for the wreath and a verbal thank you for the road signs.
- (g) Noah's Ark Residents' Association – Thank you letter for the Parish Council's donation for the Christmas event.
- (h) Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish Newsletter – November 2012
- (i) Connexions (Job Club) – Sadly this service has been suspended by Kent County Council due to a significant reduction in funding for the provision of youth services. The Parish Council noted a letter of appreciation received from Gill Humble, former Connexions Personal Advisor, thanking the Parish Council for its support towards the Job Club.
- (j) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service issues 795 & 796.

14. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**

Nothing to report.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16 January 2013

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.